

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF SCOTT COUNTY

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FRANCHISE TAX LAW.

You have all heard about Missouri's law to compel the taxation of franchisees. Perhaps you remember that the Democratic state platform of 1900 pledged the party to enact such a law. Perhaps you also remember that an effective bill was offered, but it would not go through. Then the "attorneys" of the franchise corporations prepared a bill known as the "Dockey franchise bill" and, after the governor had sent a special message to the legislature urging its passage, it went through in a twinkling.

Some of the members, however, refused to vote for it—claiming that the bill was a makeshift and not worth the paper it was written on. These members were howled down by the influence of the "lobby." The governor assured the general assembly that the bill was a good one and that he would stand responsible for its effectiveness. And here is what the Post-Dispatch, a newspaper that supported the whole Dockey ticket, says about it:

"The State Supreme Court sustained the motion of Attorney-General Crow to quash the petition for a writ of mandamus in the case of William Preston Hill to compel the State Board of Equalization to assess the property of franchise corporations at their cash value, as individual property is assessed in this city."

"No opinion was handed down in the case. This action of the supreme court puts an end to all hope of interference with the State Board of Equalization on the part of the courts of the state. It is possible that the case may be taken to the federal court."

"The only way of relief for the people from an unjust mode of taxation which excuses millions of dollars' worth of property held by corporations under franchise grants, and shifts the burden upon the property of individual citizens, lies in the election of men who will deal justly with the corporations."

"There is not a shadow of excuse for the tax inequalities existing in St. Louis. Under the constitution the property of the franchise corporations should be taxed on the same basis as other property. There is a franchise tax law, passed by the state legislature two years ago, and approved by Gov. Dockery, providing for the taxation of franchise property at its actual value."

"But the pull of the franchise corporations is more powerful with the state's officers than the interests of the people. The corporations are generous contributors to party campaign funds."

Says the Appeal to Reason: "Capitalists have proved again that they have no respect for man, woman, child, flag, past, present, future, heaven or hell. A woman was suing the Santa Fe railway for \$25,000 damages received while in the company's employ. The case must have been a good one, for the girl was kidnapped from El Paso, Texas, without requisition papers, and taken to Las Vegas, N. M., on a charge of having stolen \$50 from the company while she was working in that city. The trial was hurried through the courts and the unfortunate creature was sent to the penitentiary for ten years. And all this in defiance of law, just because the Santa Fe railway had the power to crush any officer who would dare to demand justice."

Let the legislature repeal the law requiring the ballots to be printed in two newspapers of each county. It is a reckless waste of the people's money and is positively useless. It costs more than one hundred thousand dollars at every election and the money would be as well disposed of if thrown in the fire. It goes to support a lot of political organs that in most instances are a detriment to the community in which they are published. Repeal the law, and if the legislature can find no other way to dispose of the money thus saved, let it create a Board of Tooth-Pick Inspectors.

"In all the cities of the better class," says McClure's Magazine, "the business men are the sources of corruption, but they are so rarely pursued and caught that we do not fully realize where the trouble comes. And so most people blame the politicians and the ignorant and vicious poor. Mr. Folk has shown St. Louis that its bankers, brokers and corporation officers, its business men, are the sources of evil."

The Charleston Enterprise thinks that the printing of the ballots in two newspapers of a county is "a bit of charity toward the newspapers that could pretty well be done away with without injury to the general public." Repeal the law. It is worse than useless.

THE OTHER EXTREME.

Never before has socialism attracted so much attention in the United States. The wonderful increase in the socialist vote at the recent election is commented on by the press generally. The West Plains Quill says:

"The socialists made more substantial progress during the last two campaigns than all the other reform parties combined. It takes the most advanced grounds of any of the reform parties, and it stands the firmest upon its principles of any of the reform parties. Just at the present time it looks as if it was going to absorb all the other reform parties."

The drift to socialism is nothing more than one extreme following another. The "captains of industry" have about reached the limit. They believe in cooperation, which is only another name for socialism. If cooperation and a "community of interests" is a good thing for the "captains of industry," why should it not be equally as good for the captains of the plow?

The heavy socialist vote, together with the light vote cast, proves that the masses are dissatisfied with existing conditions. It proves that the people are beginning to understand that there is no difference between the corporation tools placed on the tickets of the two great parties, no matter whether they call themselves Democrats or Republicans.

The capitalist press has so often coupled socialism with anarchy that many consider them one and the same. They are exactly the opposite. What we have now in the United States is bordering on anarchy. Anarchy means a lawless country. We have soured law, but it can be made to mean anything or nothing and the effect depends entirely upon what sort of construction a corporation-owned supreme judge puts upon the language of the statute.

The writer has heard lawyers discuss certain sections of Missouri law, and their discussion sounded something like this: "In the latest decision of Smith vs. Jones the court held so-and-so, but you don't know what it will be when the supreme court gets another GUESS at it."

And these were Democratic lawyers, too.

Some of our exchanges complain about the advance of one cent a gallon in the price of coal oil. It must be remembered that congress is in session and that it takes quite a little extra change to convince our statesmen that the oil trust is a good thing and needs protection. It wouldn't do to let the annual dividend fall below forty-eight million, so therefore it was thought best to tighten the screws on the public. After our statesmen go home then the innocent increase can be dropped, and we'll all agree that the good and kind Rockefeller is no log.

The organ seems to have given it up. But some of us are still anxious to have someone explain the difference from either a moral or a legal standpoint, between a House of Delegates paying four prices for the gathering and reducing of garbage in St. Louis and a county court paying four prices for printing in Scott county? In either case it is the sworn duty of the officials to guard the interests of the taxpayers. In St. Louis the prosecuting attorney is making it warm for the men who regarded public office as a private snap.

The "reform" movement is on the climb in St. Louis. Two recent Democratic appointees have pictures in the rogues' gallery. One is known to the police as a thief and the other as a pick-pocket. But these are the men who "saved the party" and "to the victors belong the spoils." Perhaps they voted on election day as often as they have been arrested for crime.

The Republic is willing that the Nesbit law be "improved"—provided that everybody will admit that it is a good law, and that it was not designed to steal elections. If to "improve" the law means to cast reflections upon the "party" that gave it to us, then the Republic says "the matter may as well be dropped now."

Mayor Wells recently banqueted Harry Hawes and other leading Democrats of St. Louis, and especially invited Circuit Attorney Folk. Somehow there is a sort of coolness between Mr. Folk and the ringsters, and Mr. Wells had hoped to harmonize things. But Mr. Folk did not attend.

Missouri has a peculiar law that permits the governor to step down and become the public prosecutor. If the ringsters have any fears of Joe Folk for governor in 1904 it may be expected that this law will be repealed just before Mr. Folk takes charge of affairs.

City Marshal Greene shot and killed Keith Ferguson at Caruthersville on Wednesday last week in the Opera saloon. Greene claims to have acted in self defense. Ferguson was a gambler and had been drinking heavily.

THE MATRIMONIAL BUREAU.

It is not surprising that matrimonial bureaus should be established in a country where the very souls of men are for sale to the highest bidder. The chief object of these establishments is to secure rich American heiresses for decrepit and bankrupt foreign noblemen—men of the basest character.

And it works. The daughters of the rich want distinction. Not satisfied with all the comforts that money can buy at home, they want to go abroad and become a duchess, a duchess, or something—the envy of all her sisters. As a rule, she discovers when it is too late that she has been gold-bribeled.

And this class distinction does not apply only to the extremely rich; it applies to the moderately rich as well. The matter of dollars and cents often cuts more ice, even in our own country, than does the eternal stress of things.

No matter how beautiful, how pure or how honest might be a girl, if she has the spunk and the courage to work for a living many of our "respectable" families would feel "disgraced" to acknowledge her as a member.

Let a marriage be announced, and the purity and social qualities of the contracting parties are seldom discussed. You will hear that he or she married so many acres of land and so much money.

Oh, it's a great age—this age of commercialism, in which honesty and integrity are at a discount, while dishonesty and hypocrisy stand above par.

Nearly every day the editor hears complaints from farmers that they cannot get rid of certain newspapers, claiming that they have refused to take them from the post-office and that the postmaster has repeatedly notified the publisher of the refusal. Such papers do not depend upon merit for support. They are fed from the public crib and are sent out broadcast as the organs of politicians. If the publisher can then collect the subscription price he is that much ahead. Every taxpayer owes it to himself to discourage such methods by positively refusing to take such newspapers from the post-office. A legitimate newspaper will demand the subscription price in advance.

Representative Williams' boom for speaker of the House seems to have died unborn. The Kicker would like to see Williams knock the person down and would advocate his claims if there was a ghost of a show. But what's the use of butting one's head against a stone wall? Williams is barred. He is ineligible. Of right it belongs to him, but he has one fatal failing for such a job under existing conditions. He's honest. He will lose the speakership for the same reason that the Kicker lost the ball lot job. He can't be "used."

The biggest farce now on is the pretended investigation by the Missouri authorities as to whether or not there is a meat trust doing business in this state. A three-ring circus of this kind is now performing at Kansas City. Everybody knows that there is a meat trust, and everybody also knows that the trust agents who are in control of affairs in Missouri will not be able to find it. So what's the use monkeying about it? In behalf of the supreme court of Missouri the Kicker takes the liberty to announce that there is no meat trust.

Gas Gregory, who shot and killed George Marshall near Sikeston last July, was tried in New Madrid county last week and convicted of murder in the first degree. Judge Riley sentenced him to be hanged on January 15. The case will be appealed, so we are informed.

It is to be hoped that the newly elected supreme judges who owe their election, in a large measure, to the Honorable Edward Butler, will not be as ungrateful as Joe Folk. Col. Butler has appealed his case to them.

Mr. Folk says that if he should seek the nomination for governor he would not get a single delegation from St. Louis. That is just why every county delegation should be for Mr. Folk.

With Joe Folk in the governor's chair the whole gang would have to skedaddle. Suppose we nominate him on the Democratic ticket just to see how quick the Butlers can change their politics?

If the farmers want only that part which the politicians want them to know, they should read the court house organs. If they want the whole story they must read the Kicker.

Joe Folk and the Democratic "party" don't seem to be getting along very well. If Joe keeps on he'll have the biggest end of the "party" sentenced to the penitentiary.

Thos. B. Reed, ex-speaker of the National House of Representatives, died Saturday evening of Bright's disease at the age of 68 years.

To Subscribers.

When the Kicker started one year ago you were told that \$1.00 would pay until Jan. 1, 1903. That is true. But many subscribed in a clabbing way for the St. Louis Star. Your Kicker will continue until Jan. 1, but your Star will stop with the year.

They who desire a continuation of the Star—and we have heard only the highest praise of the paper—should pay their subscription as they did one year ago. This will entitle them to the Star for one year and the Kicker until January 1, 1904, for only \$1.55.

Here and There.

Work on the new bank building for Benton has begun. The building will be a two-story brick, and is located on the lot north of the north-east corner of the public square.

A box supper will be given at Cross Plains church house Christmas Eve. Proceeds will go towards repairing and renovating the church. Everybody invited.

STRAYED—From Big Island, near Conway, a fair, cross-fallen mare, about seven years old and 14 hands high. Also bay male about 15½ hands high, 6 years old. Address E. D. Williams, Conway, Mo.

The Benton Home has again opened its doors to the traveling public, with first-class accommodation. See the card elsewhere.

Notice to Taxpayers.

Owing to the large amount of extra work in the collection of taxes, including ditch and road, you are requested to settle at once, as it will be impossible to do all this work in the latter part of December, and I will close my books promptly December 31 and add penalty.

R. L. HAMMONS,
Collector of Revenue.

Notice to Citizens.

The County Board of Health of Scott county, having declared that smallpox is epidemic in the county, and the disease becoming more violent in form, and continuing to spread to the danger of life and the inconvenience of the public, hereby requests that all the physicians of the county and all the citizens join the board in an effort to stamp it out.

Families afflicted with it will, no doubt, be inconvenienced to some extent in the observance of quarantine rules for a time, but we appeal to those that the saving of some neighbor or friend from catching the disease, or saving the life, may be of them, will pay for the trouble undergone. It will always be among us unless we take steps to control and suppress it.

We herewith submit some regulations adopted by the Board, looking to that end, and request that they be observed; and if they are not the county will be put to the expense of advising and enforcing strict quarantine measures which will necessitate the establishment of a pest house to which all patients will be removed for care and all persons exposed for surveillance. Medical authorities say: "There is but one way to manage and treat smallpox, and that is by isolation, vaccination and fumigation."

1st. It shall be the duty of all physicians having diagnosed smallpox to report the same, giving the name and residence, to the County Board of Health, Conway, Mo.

2nd. As soon as a case is discovered, the patient and all members of the family should remain away from all public gatherings and public places, and avoid coming in contact with those not exposed.

3rd. A patient should be isolated and the other members of the family kept away from him.

4th. All persons in a neighborhood where smallpox now exists should be vaccinated, and more particularly all members of a family as soon as a case is developed therein.

5th. After the recovery of a patient all infected articles of clothing should be thoroughly and well boiled or entirely burned.

6th. After a case has been in a house, if the Board is notified at the time of its termination, members will call and disinfect the premises.

7th. No person who has the eruptions upon him shall go upon the streets of any incorporated town within the county, nor to any public gathering, nor into any public place.

By Section 7521 of Statutes of Missouri, it is made the duty of all public officers, sheriffs, constables and other executive officers to assist in carrying out the law and rules adopted by the Board of Health applicable to diseases of this kind.

These officers should give notice to all parties appearing on the streets, or at any public gathering, or in any public place, with the eruptions on them, that they thereby violate the 7th rule and regulation here adopted and become liable to punishment under Section 7523 below, and will be either then and there arrested or reported to the Board for prosecution, and a prosecution will certainly follow.

SECTION 7523. Any person or persons failing after notice or refusing to comply with the quarantine rules and regulations of the State of Missouri, as established by the County Board of Health for a county, or any person or persons residing by force the enforcement of the quarantine regulations of the county, established and approved as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than ten nor more than five hundred dollars for each offense.

Done by order of the County Board of Health within and for the County of Scott, State of Missouri, this 11th day of December, 1902.

W. M. REEDER,
W. R. BATES,
C. N. WELCH,
T. B. FRASER,
County Board of Health.

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Wylie Robertson Barred.

Wylie W. Robertson, son of our townsman, W. W. Robertson, died at Waco, Tex., last Friday at the age of 35 years. The cause of death was a complication of diseases—rheumatism and dropsy being the main ones.

Owing to delayed telegrams from here the body had been prepared for burial at Waco, and friends had already gathered at the cemetery when the telegram arrived requesting that the remains be forwarded to Benton. The remains arrived here Monday afternoon and were interred Tuesday morning.

The funeral was largely attended.

County Court Proceedings.

County Court met in adjourned term Monday and the following proceedings were had:

Allowances—Flesh Wisdom, pauper, \$10; Thos. Beardslee, bridge lumber, \$125.31; Julius Misdeldt, road work, \$35; Charles Brewer, road work, \$78.25; Sanders Bros., bridge work, \$135; Wm. Ganhum, bridge work, \$30; Charles Wells, road work, \$7; Robt. Davis, John McKee and J. E. Sparks, road work, \$190.18; J. E. Warner, surveyor, \$46; Albert DeReign, trip to Farmington in connection with artesian well, \$6; Flesh Wisdom, pauper, \$10; Oswald Kaffer, road work, \$9.50; B. F. Allen, treasurer, on account of criminal costs, \$387.73; R. L. Stubblefield, circuit clerk, \$54.70; O'Brien & Taylor, putting floor in court house, \$700.70; Ed. Henderson, sheriff, \$18.

Official bonds of V. L. Harris, recorder; W. H. H. Hutson, treasurer; James McHeeters, county clerk; J. D. Clymer, constable Commerce township; W. A. Miller, constable Moreland township; James Bowman, constable Morley township; J. C. Burton, constable Sandywoods township, approved.

Dramshop license granted to W. W. Carpenter, Grayshoro; C. N. Welch, Blodgett; W. H. Cranm, Vanduser.

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